

ANNEX RR: FGD Guide for ASRH

This is a tool referenced in [Table 6](#) in Chapter 7: Data for Action. Focus groups discussions (FGDs) can use a standard guide with questions, beginning with more general questions and slowly transitioning to the subject matter to discuss. This tool provides an example of an FGD conducted by Save the Children's Yemen team with adolescents—including adolescent girls who are married, adolescent girls who are unmarried, and adolescent boys. The FGD guide provides considerations and adjustments for each of the questions depending on the audience, as well as guidance for how to introduce, transition between topics, and close the FGD session.

To note: this is an example of an FGD from Save the Children's Yemen team. They did not use all of the questions listed below during their discussion with different adolescent groups, but these questions helped guide them in their discussion.

Selected FGD areas: Tuban, Hota, Radfan and Yafe. Tuban and Hota resemble urban populations and the socio cultural make up is similar. Radfan and Yafe represent rural populations. However, Radfan and Yafe do not have similar environments. The idea is to conduct one FGD for each of the mentioned areas. Each focus group can have a mixture of adolescents and youth.

Introduction: Thank you for participating in this discussion today. Your participation is voluntary. This means that you choose if you want to participate or not. If you decide you do not want to participate during the discussion, please feel free to leave at any time. [Instruction to facilitator: take consent form from Sheik before starting FGD.]

Today we will be talking about your experiences with health services in the community. We are interested in hearing about your opinions on health services and information offered to adolescents/youth in your community. There are no right or wrong answers to any of the questions. I will not ask about your personal experiences, but if you would like to share something that you feel may be of interest and are comfortable doing so, it may help our research. In addition, if there are any questions you do not feel comfortable answering, you are free to not answer. The ideas and opinions of everyone in the group are important to us. We ask that you respect each other's opinions. This means that we let each person speak and listen to what they have to say. We also ask that you keep everything that is said in this discussion private and that you do not share anything that is said in the discussion outside of this room. As I mentioned before, your name will not be written down and all answers will be kept confidential. The reason we are collecting this information is to understand your experience with health services our organization and other organizations offer to adolescents and youth and, where possible, make improvements to our services in response to the things you share with us.

Before we get started, does anyone have any questions? Great, thank you. Let us get started.

Introductory Questions

1. Could everyone go around and tell me your name and what you like to do for fun?
2. What is your typical day like?
 - a. Other ways of phrasing: how do you spend your day?
3. What do you want to do when you grow up? What are your goals?

Health Questions

4. When you get sick, what do you do?
 - a. Probe: Who do you talk to? Do you talk to your friends? Where do you find information about health?
5. Have you had any questions about your health or your body changing? If so, ask what questions.
6. Where do you go when you get sick?
7. Have you had to access services at the health clinic?
 - a. Probe: What for? What was your experience like (ask about service providers, safety getting to the clinic, can they get there without a caregiver)? Did you have to take someone with you to the clinic? If yes, who accompanied you to the health facility? Were you comfortable and able to ask your questions or was the discussion with the service provider done by the person who accompanied you?
 - b. If you have not gone to the health clinic to access services, why not?
8. What do you know about the changes going on in your body?
 - a. Probe - **Girls**: How does a girl's body change as they grow from a girl to a woman? What do these changes mean?
 - b. Probe - **Boys**: How does a boy's body change as they grow from a boy to a man? What do these changes mean?
9. Who do you go to when you want advice on issues with your body changing? Where do you access information on these topics? Probe further – Do you speak to peers/ friends for your information and advice? Do you check media or the internet? Please explain.

Early Marriage Questions

10. For asking **adolescent girls**: what roles do girls and women typically have in your community? What roles do boys and men have in your community? Have any of these roles changed recently or in the past years? Is there a change of roles for accessing health care services? Do you get permission readily to leave the house for services?
 - a. Use following questions for asking **adolescent boys**: What roles do boys and men have in your community? What roles do girls and women typically have in your community? Have any of these roles changed recently or in the past years? Is there a change of roles for accessing health care services?
11. What age do people usually get married in your community?
 - a. Probe: **Girls** – What age do girls in this area usually get married?
 - b. Probe: **Boys** – What age do boys in this area usually get married?
12. Do you know of girls and boys who get married before turning 18 years old? If so, why? Why do you think those boys or girls married? Was the decision his or hers or up to someone else?
13. What do you think of girls and boys getting married before 18 years old? Do you think it was a good idea for you to get married when you did? Would you prefer to get married later?
 - a. Use following questions for asking **unmarried adolescent girls**: Do you think this is a good practice or would you say that young girls should not get married at this age? What if the girl is getting married to an older man with resources? Is it a good idea then?
 - b. Use following questions for asking **adolescent boys**: Do you think boys getting married before 18 years old is a good practice or would you say that getting married before 18 years old should not happen? What if a young girl (below 18 years old) is married to an older man (20 years or older)? Is it a good idea then?
14. For **married adolescent girls**: how does getting married at a young age affect girls and boys in this area? Describe your life as a young married girl?
 - a. Use following questions for asking **unmarried adolescent girls**: If you get married at a young age, how does this affect your goals? Can you continue going to school if you get married young?
 - b. Use following questions for asking **adolescent boys**: If you get married at a young age, how does this affect your goals? Can you continue going to school if you get married young?

Conclusion: This concludes our focus group discussion. Thank you so much for coming and sharing your thoughts and opinions with us. As we said before, we hope to use the information you all provided today to improve health services for you and other adolescents and youth in this community. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Source: Focus Group Discussion for Adolescents in Yemen (Save the Children, 2019).